

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants note that in the present application a Supplemental Amendment was filed on January 7, 2009, which amended certain claims and added new claims 29 and 30 for examination. The outstanding Office Action was mailed on January 8, 2009 and did not consider that Supplemental Amendment. As that Supplemental Amendment has been filed and made of record, the claims as submitted in that Supplemental Amendment have been considered as entered for the purposes of the presently submitted amendments, although as noted above the Supplemental Amendment was not considered in the Office Action.

Claims 16-29 and 31-40 are currently pending in this application. Claim 30 is herein canceled without prejudice and new claims 31-40 are added for examination. Applicants submit new claims 31-40 are clear from the original disclosure, see the currently pending dependent claims 17-28 as an example.

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 16-17, 19-22, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,419,446 to Kvasnak. Claims 16-17, 19-22, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the publication “Controlling Secondary-Flow Structure by Leading-Edge Airfoil Fillet and Inlet Swirl to Reduce Aerodynamic Loss and Surface Heat Transfer” to Shih et al. (herein “the Shih publication”). Claims 23 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable Kvasnak in view of U.S. patent application publication 2002/0182067 to Tiemann. Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kvasnak in view of U.S. patent 3,959,966 to Pearce. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kvasnak in view of U.S. patent 3,843,279 to Crossley. Claim 18 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base

claim and any intervening claims. Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in claim 18.

Addressing first the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 23 is herein amended to clarify the noted recitation at claim 23, line 2 by now reciting “a root side of the blade bodies”. That amendment is believed to address the rejection of claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the above-noted prior art rejections, the claims as written are believed to overcome the outstanding rejections.

Independent claim 16 is herein amended to incorporate the subject matter from allowable dependent claim 18. That is, independent claim 16 now corresponds to previously pending dependent claim 18 rewritten in independent form, which subject matter was noted as allowable in the Office Action. Thereby, applicants respectfully submit amended independent claim 16, and claims 17 and 19-28 now dependent therefrom, are allowable over the applied art.

Independent claim 29 is also amended to clarify the language therein by reciting “wherein the protruded portion forming the covered portion consists of a single concave curved surface”. In that respect, independent claim 29 now clarifies language such as recited in previously pending dependent claim 28. With respect to previously pending dependent claim 28, one ground for the outstanding rejection states:

Concerning claim 28, the protruded portion forming the cover portion is formed from a single concave curved surface, since either the concave curved surface 52, 54 may be considered as a single concave curved surface, and the claim does not exclude there being two separate concave surfaces, since the claim is not limited by language such as “consisting of”.¹

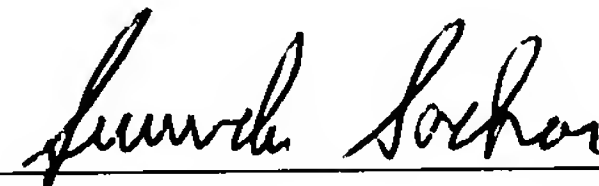
¹ Office Action of January 8, 2009, the last five lines of the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5.

In reply to that grounds for maintaining the rejection of claim 28, applicants note claim 29, which recites the features of previously pending claims 16 and 28, is now further clarified to recite the language suggested in the Office Action by reciting the cover portion “consists of a single concave curved surface”. Applicants submit such features are neither taught nor suggested by the applied art. Thereby, applicants respectfully submit amended independent claim 29, and new claims 31-40 dependent therefrom, are also allowable over the applied art. Applicants note new dependent claims 31-40 correspond to previously pending dependent claims 17 and 19-28.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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